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GRAND GALA

OF CANADIAN TAMILS

2016



A Unique Evening of Recognition

- GRAND GALA 2016 -



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Message From

Professor R. SRI RANJAN, PH.D., P.ENG.
Chairperson, National Council of Canadian Tamils

Dear Honoured Guests and Friends,

A warm welcome to all the Members of Parliament at the Federal and Provincial levels, Mayors, Councillors, Trustees, Officials from Law Enforcement, Emergency Response, and friends for joining us today in the Grand Gala of Canadian Tamils to recognize and celebrate achievements.

Exactly 40 years ago, Eelam Tamils proclaimed themselves as a nation in the "1976 Vaddukkoddai Resolution" and asked for a mandate in the 1977 General Election. It was a resounding victory with over 84% voting in favour of asserting our nationhood. In response, the Sinhala nation unleashed a backlash of pogroms directed against innocent Tamil civilians, which drove over a million Eelam Tamils to flee the genocide in the island of Sri Lanka. Canada opened its doors to us and we are thankful to our great country for providing a safe environment in which we could grow and flourish into a vibrant community of over 350,000 people. We thank all three major political parties for demanding an international, independent, investigation into the genocide that is continuing to cause the exodus. The only way to stop the ongoing genocide is to recognize Eelam Tamils in the island of Sri Lanka as a Nation with inalienable right to self-determination as guaranteed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights proclaimed by the UN in 1948.

The drive for excellence as a community has produced many professionals and entrepreneurs who have been productive citizens in all walks of life contributing to the growth of this great nation. To foster excellence we have to recognize achievements which in turn encourages others to emulate. Awards are being presented to recognize those who excelled in Arts, Media, Sports, and for Defending Human Rights. Our heartiest congratulations to all the award winners.

As a community-based organization it is our responsibility to guide our people by promoting Canadian ideals of volunteerism, human rights, and multiculturalism. We have organized fundraisers for the Heart and Stroke Foundation, collected non-perishable items for the Food Bank to help the poor, and held Blood Donation Drives. We have also connected individuals with war-affected families in our homeland to directly help them build their livelihood. We have been doing advocacy work in Canada and internationally to raise awareness about the ongoing human rights violations against our family and friends we left behind in Tamil Eelam. Let us all continue to be the voice of the voiceless.

Thank you all for gracing this occasion.
Enjoy!



Dr. R. Sri Ranjan
204-4891743
email:- ranjana@shaw.ca

Dear P. M

Please send official
invitation to the above
address

M. K. Elavarathan
26/4/2016

Our Values

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CANADIAN TAMILS



DIVERSITY

We recognize and respect the diversity among Canadian society. Collaboration and solidarity: We are committed to building alliances in order to work collectively towards common aims.

RESPONSIVENESS

We strive to work through a variety of consultative and participatory structures and practices to ensure that our work is grounded in the realities and priorities of our communities.

ACCOUNTABILITY

We are committed to maintaining effective governance, measurement and reporting practices.

TRANSPARENCY, DEMOCRACY AND FAIRNESS

We are committed to maintain transparency, Democracy and fairness in all the decision making process.



YEAR AT A GLANCE

NCCT's Events & Achievements



Canadian Blood Services
it's in you to give



Blood Drive

During the month of May and November, NCCT works with the Canadian Blood Services to have blood drives to remember the sacrifices made by the Tamil people. NCCT is a long standing champion with Canadian Blood Services (CBS) and it is with great honor that we state that saving lives has become an integral and pro-active part of the Tamil Canadian community by ensuring patients have the ability to receive their lifesaving blood and blood products to survive.



Heart and Stroke

Every seven minutes, a life is lost due to heart disease or stroke. Through the Big Bike Ride initiative, NCCT was worked tirelessly to raise money for the Heart and Stroke Foundation. With generous contribution made by members of our community and our volunteers, we held a very successful campaign and we hope to continue supporting this great cause.



Rehabilitation Program by NCCT (ManVaasanai)

Since 2010 NCCT has been helping war affected people from North and East. Total amount of the help until today amount to more than \$400,000. The help includes following categories:

1. Disabled due to war:

NCCT directly helped about 112 members who were disabled by war. They were given monthly allowances to help them sustain their livelihoods and medical expenses. More families are getting support through family connection.

2. Family Connection:

More than 60 families benefited this year from Family connection program.

3. Entrepreneur and livelihood help:

Recently we focus on sustainable self development in terms of investment for Farms and Store for affected families to sustain their livelihood. Mainly to women headed families, who in need of small business investment.

4. Educational Support:

This help goes to Children who are in need of education material, dress and transport.

5. Emergency Medical help:

Those who cannot afford emergency medical expenses.

6. Flood relief work and Mudslide in Upcountry:

Natural Distater need was met in Batticaloa, Kilinochchi, Kandy and Chennai

7. Children homes:

Mylambaveli (Batticaloa) children home by CREP who is set to undertake 100 kids got help from ManVaasanai

8. Mental health to those affected by war:

Old people who are mentally affected by war got our help.





Human Rights Lobbying

NCCT's Canadian and international advocacy work was crucial in bringing out the human rights violation against Eelam Tamils. We work with many governments and NGOs in bringing about a change in the life of Eelam Tamils. Our underlying work is based on the principle set forth by the Tamil Canadian General Assembly's consensus document.



Food bank

NCCT has worked with the Daily Bread Food Bank to collect nutritious non-perishable food items to help families in need. NCCT collected these items from the Tamil Canadian community to help support families affected by the power outages around the GTA in 2013. NCCT is working to identify people and communities in need and will be continuing to provide support accordingly.



Daily Bread
Food Bank



Political Advocacy



Over 80 Tamil community organizations from across Canada came together in an initiative to create a consensus document outlining their collective position and guiding principles for engagement with all interested parties. This assembly was unanimous in their adoption of 34 points for consensus. The points are divided into sections discussing historical context, the responsibility of the international community, Canadian Government responsibility, the role of the Tamil diaspora, and the effects of proscribing Tamil community activism.



EVENT

To Remember those who were killed during the on- going Genocide against Tamil's

May 18th- Tamil Genocide Remembrance Day



In May 2009, the war in Sri Lanka ended amidst the indiscriminate killing of 70,000 civilians, caused by the intentional bombings of civilian "safe zones," hospitals and humanitarian operations. Thousands of Tamil Canadians participate at the annual Tamil Genocide Remembrance Day every year. Community members, Members of Parliament, and human rights activists join together to call for a independent international investigation into genocide and violations of international and human rights law in Sri Lanka.

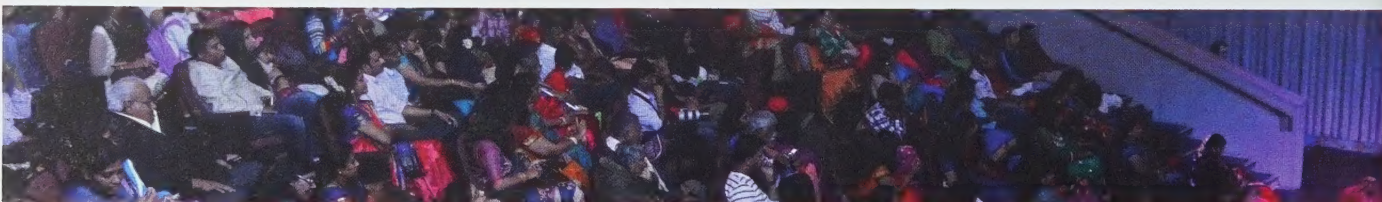
Black July - 1983

In July 1983, the riots against the Tamil people began in Sri Lanka. Over a week, many Tamils were targeted, including business and homes. More than 3000 people were killed, and 8 000 homes and 5 000 shops were destroyed. Every year Tamil Canadians remember and commemorate the lives lost during the Black July anti-Tamil pogrom.



Aadalarangam

Aadalarangam is a competitive dance performance by prominent Bharathanaatyam dance teachers. Every year there are about 25 dance teachers and 300 students participate in this event. Types of performances are classical, contemporary, fusion, folks and National.





Award

➤ Youth Singer Award

Miss Jessica Judes



Jessica is a grade 10 student from Toronto, Canada. She has been studying the art of classical Indian singing since the age of four. Alongside her vocal studies, she has also been playing classical piano with the Royal Conservatory and won a gold medal for her achievement. Jessica won the Gold Medal in Canada's TVI Super Star in 2012. Her passion for music led her to India, where she could compete at a bigger venue in a reality TV show, Super Singer Junior. Through this show, she has had the opportunity to learn music from one of India's leading vocal trainers and to meet several renowned Indian musicians. Jessica was the first runner up of Super Singer Junior 5. Jessica has been part of the world tour in London, England, Australia, Singapore,

Norway, USA and Canada. She had the opportunity to perform along with renowned artists like S.P.B, Shankar Mahadevan, Karthik, Mano, Chitra, and Unni Krishnan etc. Jessica recently received the award from VJ Television as The International Find of the Year 2015. Jessica debuted her first movie song for "Kadal Kuthiraikal", yet to be released under music director Vedham Puthitu fame Mr. Devendran written by Kavignar Kaasi Aanandan. She was recently featured in a song with singer Srinivas for Autism Awareness. Jessica received several awards for her achievement from various organizations around the world.

➤ Young Athlete Award

Brintha Ramasamy



Brintha Ramasamy was 6 years old when she started tennis at a recreational level at the Lameroux Tennis Club in Scarborough Ontario. She started to play more tennis every chance she got, started to fall in love with tennis and decided that she wanted to do this for the rest of her life. In 2009, she played her first tournament which was a Rogers Rookie tournament, continuously played more matches from then on, by the end of the year she became Rank No 1 in Ontario. In 2010, she won her first big tournament called the Under 10-Roman Cup, she also won the Under 10-Regionals. In 2011, she played her first International Tournament in France. She attended IMG academy in the age category U12 in Bradenton, Florida. She got selected to go to Italy to play 3 international U12 tournaments, where she reached the quarterfinals. She played her first nationals in the category U12 in Calgary, Alberta. She then got selected to be in Tennis Canada for training. In 2012, she got selected to go to Austria to play 3 international tournaments in the category U12, she reached

the quarterfinals for singles and the finals for doubles. She won her first national championship in the summer of 2012 in the U12 category. In 2013, she won U14 National Finals and then got selected to go to Italy to play 2 international tournaments in the category U14, she reached the semifinals and finals of doubles, respectively. She got selected to be in the full time national program at Tennis Canada for 2014. In 2014, she played her first U18 ITF tournament and got to the semifinals. She got selected to play for Canada in the World Junior Tennis Finals in Czech Republic. She then won her second National Championship U16 at the age of 13. In 2015, she was selected again to be a part of Tennis Canada. She won her first U18 ITF Championship in Mexico in singles, her second U18 ITF Championship in El Salvador in singles and doubles, and then won her third U18 ITF Championship in Burlington, Ontario. In 2016, she won the U18 Provincials, making history by becoming the first Canadian girl to win all Provincial Titles between U10-U18.

➤ Youth Singer Award

Miss Sofia Rahul



Sofia Rahul has been singing for about 9 years. She comes from a very strong Carnatic background and has been learning vocal under guru Aathirai Sivapalan and mridangam from Vasudevan Rajalingam. Both gurus, as well as Mrs. Jeyarani Sivapalan, have held her hand through this music journey and raised her like their own child since she was very young. Her entire music foundation is through them.

In school, she is studying in a performing arts program in a vocal major and aspires to study in the field of software engineering. Recently, she won the title of TVI Super Star season 4.

Recipients

Young Writers Award

Janaath Vijayaseelan



Janaath Vijayaseelan is a post-secondary student in his final year at York University's Law and Society program. He is an aspiring writer who began publishing his writing through social media, such as Facebook, Twitter, blogs, and Tamil Culture magazine. With the encouragement of family and friends, he continued writing to vent. One night, Janaath had a nightmare in which he had gotten shot. The realism of his dream fascinated him and he jotted some notes down immediately about his dream. The next

morning, he began to wonder how he could create a novel from this idea. As a fan of South Indian Films, Janaath decided to incorporate the culture of Tamil films and add a western twist to write his novel, "Cross Roads: Pick a Path." He learned how to self-publish, created a cover image and soon his book was published. Following the success and encouraging feedback from his first book, Jaanath will be writing a sequel. He hopes that one day, he would be able to have his novel made into a Tamil film.

Community Service Award

Geetha Moorthy



An accountant by training, Geetha immigrated to Canada from Sri Lanka in 1983. Geetha founded the Northanlaya Centre for South Asian Dances in 1985. Geetha came across some students who were diagnosed with autism and touched by these students' commitment to dance, she organized a charity fundraiser dance program for the APTUS Treatment Centre in 2007.

In 2008, Geetha founded the South Asian Autism Awareness Centre, or SAAAC as it is popularly known, in direct response to the growing need for awareness and support for South Asian families impacted by ASD. The Centre began with two families and now grown into a fully-fledged centre

composed of team of physicians, behavioral therapists, speech therapists, occupational therapists, dance/music therapists, social workers, administrative staff and more than 100 volunteers. SAAAC now serves 190 families impacted by autism.

Geetha is the recipient of numerous awards, including the Dr. Ashleigh Molloy Community Excellence Award (2015), Skills for Change Excellence in Social Impact Award (2015), Tamil Mirror's Community Service Award (2012) and the Canadian Tamil Youth Development Centre's Professional Achievement Award (2001).

Media Achivement Award

P. Wikneswaran



Wikneswaran Paramanathan entered the broadcasting career at the tender age of nineteen and he still continues his service in various media for the past forty six years.

All these years he has excelled himself as a producer, news reader, scriptwriter and director in both Radio & Television media and also in Theatre Arts. The trainings he received in the fields of Radio & Television in Srilanka and internationally, helped him to groom young talents in the field of electronic media. He has won prestigious awards for feature production in Radio, television drama production and screen play writing. As a well reputed media manager he held the position as Head of the Tamil Section of the State Television Corporation, Rupavahini and helped immensely to the development of local talents in Srilanka.

He came to Canada in 1991 to settle down. Since then, he has been helping to develop professionalism in some of the privately owned Tamil radio broadcasting services that were operating in Toronto and later offered his skills and expertise to establish TVI, a 24 hour Tamil television service and the first Tamil FM radio station CMR both are being operated in Toronto. And he still looks after the day to day activities of TVI in the capacity as Chief Operating Officer. With indefatigable commitment, magnanimity and a venerable volunteer spirit, he has imparted his knowledge, expertise and other creative skills to the younger generation of the Tamil community by helping to educate and train them in the fields of Radio broadcasting, Radio and Television programming and Theatre Arts.

About Us

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CANADIAN TAMILS



National Council of Canadian Tamils is a Not-For-Profit-Organization built by delegates elected by Tamils from districts across Canada. The birth of this institution came about in order to provide for Canadians a unified democratic voice for the perpetuation of the Tamil community within Canada and also to actively advocate for the voiceless Tamils of Sri Lanka.

NCCT is registered as Not-For-Profit-Organization with both Federal and Provincial governments of Canada. Canadian-Tamils took a historic stride on June 20th 2010, by pioneering and electing a nationwide organization, the National Council of Canadian Tamils (NCCT), run for Canadian-Tamils at a grassroots level, dedicated to raising awareness of the important issues facing Tamils domestically and internationally.

The elections, conducted by Tamil Elections Canada, allowed tens of thousands of Tamils from across the country the ability to vote for representatives at the regional, provincial, and national level. The elections resulted in 43 individuals being sworn in as the first assembly of the NCCT.

The National Council of Canadian Tamils first convened on July 1, 2010, after a formal inauguration event, in Toronto, Ontario. NCCT has assembled numerous times to establish a foundational structure for the governing body of the council. The NCCT has now become a legal entity, with its governing committee being responsible for the organization.

The NCCT has thus built a working system, in order to tackle the various issues that affect the Tamil community in Canada, while constantly raising awareness of the issues plaguing the Tamil citizens back home.

GREETINGS

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Hon. Stephane Dion, M.P.
Minister of Foreign Affairs

I would like to take this opportunity to offer my best wishes to all in attendance, to the National Council of Canadian Tamils (NCCT) as well as to all the volunteers for organizing such a successful event.

The commitment and dedication of organizations such as the NCCT have been instrumental in strengthening Canada's multicultural fabric and enriching our communities. The Grand Gala of Canadian Tamils is especially important because it not only recognizes deserving individuals; it also highlights the wide range of contributions that Canadian Tamils have made in communities across Canada.



Hon. Kirsty Duncan, M.P.
Minister of Science

Hello and warm wishes,

It gives me great honour to write this message for the National Council of Canadian Tamils. As the Member of Parliament for Etobicoke North I have had the great privilege of supporting this organization for a number years. The group is extremely active and has a wonderful reputation that strives to help make the community a better place. I wish them continued success in all future endeavors.

- GRAND GALA GREETING -



Shaun Chen, M.P.

Member of Parliament, Scarborough North



Arnold Chan, M.P.

Member of Parliament, Scarborough-Agincourt



Salma Zahid, M.P.

Member of Parliament, Scarborough-Centre

**A Personal Message from
MP Shaun Chen**

As the Member of Parliament for Scarborough North, I am pleased to extend my warmest greetings on the occasion of the Grand Gala of Canadian Tamils, organized by the National Council of Canadian Tamils.

This event is a wonderful showcase of the many contributions and achievements made by Canadians of Tamil descent, while recognizing the diverse histories, experiences and culture of the Tamil-Canadian community.

I commend the National Council of Canadian Tamils for organizing this important event to honour Tamil-Canadian traditions, strengthen ties within the community, as well as promote intercultural dialogue and sharing.

Please accept my congratulations on your achievements and best wishes for every success in all your endeavours.

Greetings from Arnold Chan

As Member of Parliament for Scarborough-Agincourt, it is with great pleasure that I convey my warmest wishes to everyone attending the National Council of Canadian Tamils' (NCCT) "Grand Gala of Canadian Tamils 2016".

The NCCT provides an excellent forum for connecting people and resources and celebrating individual and business successes and achievements. Your organization is to be commended for seeking to highlight the achievements of successful individuals and businesses. By recognizing and celebrating their achievements and contributions you continue to provide role models to inspire new generations of Canadians. As a nation, we draw pride, inspiration and strength from diversity. It is a privilege to celebrate our vibrant Tamil-Canadian community and its immense contributions to making Canada stronger.

Let me convey special congratulations to the recipients who have worked hard to establish a fine record of service, thank you for the contribution of your time, your leadership and your experience to our community.

Thank you to the organizers and volunteers who made this event possible. Please accept my best wishes for a successful evening and for all future endeavours of the organization.

Hello,

It is my sincere pleasure to send my warmest personal greetings to the members of the National Association of Canadian Tamils on the occasion of your Grand Gala of Canada Tamils 2016. On behalf of myself and the Government of Canada, I would like to wish you a very successful event.

The Grand Gala of Canadian Tamils 2016 is an occasion to recognize and celebrate the outstanding contributions that the Tamil community is making to Canada, both in Toronto and across the country. In every walk of life, from business to arts and culture, Tamil Canadians are helping to build a better Canada and are contributing to the rich wealth of diversity that makes our country great. As Prime Minister Justin Trudeau likes to say, Canada is stronger not in spite of its diversity, but because of it. The contributions of the Tamil Canadian community are part of that diversity that makes Canada even stronger.

We should all be proud to call Canada our home. There is no end to our potential in Canada, and your work to help every Canadian achieve their potential is so valuable. To quote the Prime Minister, a Canadian is a Canadian is a Canadian.

It is a pleasure to join you for your Grand Gala of Canadian Tamils 2016, and celebrate your achievements together. I wish you a fantastic event, and all the best for the year ahead.

- GRAND GALA GREETING -



Hon. Rona Ambrose, M.P.
LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION

**Greetings from the Leader of the
Official Opposition**

On behalf of my colleagues in Canada's Official Opposition, I am delighted to extend my warmest greetings to all those attending the 2016 Grand Gala of Canadian Tamils, hosted by the National Council of Canadian Tamils (NCCT).

Our country is home to a large and active Tamil community. Tamil Canadians have made valuable contributions to Canadian life. Tonight's honourees are representative of that success.

I salute all of this year's award recipients for the notable achievements that have earned them this special recognition. I also commend the NCCT for your ongoing efforts to promote excellence and fellowship in the community.

Please accept my best wishes for a memorable evening and continued success.



Hon. Tony Clement, M.P.
Member of Parliament, Muskoka

**Dear Attendees of the Grand Gala
of Canadian Tamils 2016 Dinner,**

I am honoured to extend a gracious welcome to all of the attendees here at the National Council of Canadian Tamils' Grand Gala of Canadian Tamils 2016 Dinner.

At the festivities this evening, I would like to applaud this year's honourees who are being bestowed with awards for their achievements in the categories of statesmanship, education, arts and human rights.

Your passion, hard work, commitment and dedication have made you worthy of this prestigious achievement. On behalf of the Conservative Party caucus, I wish to thank everyone who had a part in organizing tonight's event. I offer all the best in your future endeavours.



Bob Saroya, M.P.
Member of Parliament, Markham-Unionville

**GREETINGS FROM THE MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
FOR MARKHAM-UNIONVILLE BOB SAROYA, M.P.,**

On behalf of the Official Opposition and the Conservative Party of Canada, it gives me great pleasure to extend my greetings here tonight to those attending the Grand Gala of Canadian Tamils 2016.

Canada's Tamil community has had a proud history marked by outstanding achievements and contributions to Canadian society. This has benefited and enriched the social makeup and cultural vitality of our nation.

I am honored to have been asked to attend on behalf of The Honourable Rona Ambrose, Leader of the Official Opposition and along with my best wishes for continued success, I also wish to you abundant happiness, health and prosperity.

Congratulations once again!

- GRAND GALA GREETING -



Hon. Lisa Raitt, M.P.
Member of Parliament, Milton



Hon. Kathleen Wynne
Premier, Ontario



DR. Helena Jaczek, M.P.P.
Member of Provincial Parliament, Ridges - Markham

**A PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM THE
PREMIER**

As the Member of Parliament for Milton, it gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the National Council of Canadian Tamils' (NCCT) 2016 Annual Grand Gala.

Very special thanks to the countless volunteers who work so hard to make all of NCCT's programming possible. Whether it is your work with Food Banks, Blood Drives, or Heart and Stroke, the Tamil Community makes significant contributions to Canada.

I would also like to congratulate this evening's award winners. You are a shining example of what local community spirit is all about, and serve as great ambassadors showcasing the best the Tamil community has to offer.

On behalf of the Government of Ontario, I am delighted to extend warm greetings to everyone attending the Grand Gala of Canadian Tamils 2016.

This is a celebration of the many achievements of the Tamil Canadian community and of their contributions to the multicultural success story of our province and country.

Today, Ontario is proud to be home to a flourishing Tamil community. This community has made its mark in business, in the arts, in academics, in public service and in all spheres of our public life.

I commend the National Council of Canadian Tamils for giving us the opportunity to recognize and honour contributions in statesmanship, education, arts and human rights. I want to extend my congratulations to tonight's award winners. Individuals like you help to build a strong and empowered Tamil community — one that participates and contributes fully to the life of our province.

I offer my best wishes for an inspiring gala.

**Dear Guests of the Grand Gala of
Canadian Tamils,**

I am extremely honoured to attend this year's Grand Gala of Canadian Tamils.

The National Council of Canadian Tamils has done outstanding work on behalf of the Tamil community, I commend them, especially for their efforts in my riding of Oak Ridges - Markham.

I would also like to congratulate those individuals and organizations receiving awards this evening.

Congratulations to the NCCT and the many volunteers and supporters responsible for this hosting evening.

- GRAND GALA GREETING -



Amrit Mangat

Parliamentary Assistant, to the Minister of the
Environment and Climate Change



Patrick Brown, M.P.P.

Member of Provincial Parliament, Simcoe North



Rick Nicholls, M.P.P.

Member of Provincial Parliament, Chatham-Kent-Essex

Vannakkam!,

I would like to extend warm greetings to everyone participating in the 2016 Grand Gala of Canadian Tamils.

This Gala celebration is an opportunity to recognize the outstanding social and cultural achievements of Tamil Canadians and their positive impact on our society, reminding us that only together we can truly make a difference!

I applaud the National Council of Canadian Tamils' (NCCT) vision and the diligent work of its membership in helping to build a more inclusive and fair Ontario.

Please accept my best wishes for a successful Gala!

I would like to extend my warmest wishes to Grand Gala 2016 hosted by the National Council of Canadian Tamils. I also like to thank the organizers and volunteers for their contribution to this event.

Grand Gala 2016 is a great opportunity to recognize leaders in our community. Congratulations to the award recipients, whose dedication and efforts are in service to others.

Since 2009, I have worked closely with the Tamil community and have seen the community grow. Canadians of Tamil heritage have made Ontario stronger and added to our cultural, social, economic and political diversity.

On behalf of the Ontario PC Caucus, I wish the National Council of Canadian Tamils a successful night. Enjoy your evening at the Grand Gala 2016.

Nandri Vannakkam!

As the MPP of Chatham-Kent-Essex, I would like to welcome all guests to The 2016 Grand Gala celebration hosted by the National Council of Canadian Tamils.

Worldwide, the Tamil community has demonstrated profound resilience in the face of adversity. The Tamil community in Ontario has visibly flourished and enriched our multicultural landscape with their unique traditions, language, and culture.

Events like The Grand Gala are important in bringing awareness to Tamil heritage and culture. In addition to being a great opportunity to learn, this event recognizes and celebrates the many contributions the Tamil community continues to make in Ontario and across the country.

I hope you enjoy a wonderful evening amongst friends!

- GRAND GALA GREETING -



Andrea Horwath

Leader of the Ontario NDP



Sylvia Jones, M.P.P.

Member of Provincial Parliament, Dufferin-Caledon



Denzil Minnan-Wong

Deputy Mayor

On behalf of Ontario's New Democrats, I want to congratulate the National Council of Canadian Tamils on the occasion of the 2016 Grand Gala of Canadian Tamils.

This is a truly special opportunity to celebrate the invaluable contributions that Tamil Canadians make to our country and our province, and appreciate the great work being done by Tamil volunteers, activists and community members who are working in education, the arts, and for human rights, equality and justice here at home and abroad.

We recognize the extraordinary strength of members of the Tamil community to overcome hardship, struggle for justice, and prosper. In doing so, setting an example for all Ontarians to support their neighbours, care for all members of the community, empower young people and actively engage in the expression of their democratic rights.

New Democrats are proud to have worked alongside the Tamil community and we are proud to recognize and honour the important contributions that people of Tamil heritage make to our province. Ontario is better, and more vibrant, for all these inspiring efforts.

We look forward to continuing to work with members of the Tamil community for a better province, where we all succeed.

Thank you to the National Council of Canadian Tamils for all of your work. All the very best for a wonderful event!

As the Member of Provincial Parliament for DufferinCaledon and Deputy Leader of the Progressive Conservative Caucus, I would like to extend greetings to all guests of tonight's gala.

I would like to congratulate the individuals and organizations honoured this evening for excelling in, Statesmanship, Education, Arts, and Human Rights.

Your commitment and dedication has created an excellent opportunity for Ontarians to learn about the outstanding work done by Canadian Tamils in our province.

I wish you all a wonderful evening..

deputy mayor Denzil Minnan-Wong extends warmest congratulations to the **National Council of Canadian Tamils** on the Grand Gala of Canadian Tamils which recognize individuals for their outstanding contributions to the Tamil Community.

The City of Toronto is home to many diverse cultures and we encourage and welcome celebrations of our many cultural groups that work hard to preserve their heritage.

The dedication and hardwork of the National Council of Canadian Tamils plays an important role in the social and cultural life of Toronto and contributes enormously to the success of our city.

We are pleased to offer best wishes for a memorable event and continued success.

- GRAND GALA GREETING -



John Tory
Mayor, City of Toronto



Parthi Kandavel
TDSB Trustee, Ward 18 – Scarborough Southwest



Hailu Mulatu
Territory Manager, Toronto, Canadian Blood Services

Dear National Council of Canadian Tamils,

It is with great pleasure on behalf of the Toronto District School Board (TDSB), I congratulate the National Council of Canadian Tamils (NCCT) on your Annual Grand Gala. As a teacher and a school trustee, I understand and appreciate the tremendous work your organization has provided to the community. I commend the valuable work NCCT achieves through advocacy, engagement, and building inter-communal dialogue.

It is an honour to be a part of tonight's special celebration for outstanding individuals and organizations for their achievements. In particular, we extend our sincerest congratulations for tonight's recognized individuals who have demonstrated excellence in Statesmanship, Education, Arts, and Human Rights.

On behalf of the TDSB, I salute the tremendous hard work and dedication NCCT has provided to the community. Thank you for the opportunity to share our message. Please enjoy the night and celebrate the good work that has been accomplished. The TDSB applauds your service and I wish all present tonight the very best!

To The National Council of Canadian Tamils

On behalf of Canadian Blood Services and the patients we serve, we would like to thank the National Council of Canadian Tamils and its members for your continued support to Canadian Blood Services and the patients we serve.

As a partner through our national Partners for Life Program for the last several years, your members have donated hundreds of units of blood which has helped save the lives of hundreds of patients.

National Council of Canadian Tamils has clearly shown that saving lives has become an integral and pro-active part of its community commitments by ensuring patients have the ability to receive their lifesaving blood and blood products to survive. And for this we thank you.

Once again, thank you for your support to this essential community service and we look forward to working with you as we continue to support the patients we serve.

It is my pleasure to extend greetings and a warm welcome to everyone attending the National Council of Canadian Tamils' Grand Gala of Canadian Tamils 2016 Dinner.

At tonight's event, I would like to congratulate this year's organizations and individuals who are being presented with awards for their achievements in the categories of statesmanship, education, arts and human rights.

Your hard work and dedication has earned you this honoured symbol of achievement.

On behalf of Toronto City Council, I thank all those involved in organizing this event. Please accept my best wishes for continued success.



GRAND GALA

OF CANADIAN TAMILS

GRAND GALA EVENT SPONSORS

We would like to thank all of our sponsors for their continued support



PETRO-CANADA

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We Build More Than Homes,
We Build Communities



Our Promise

For every square foot we build,
a percentage is donated back to the community.

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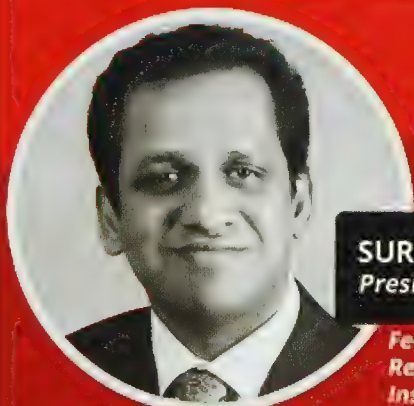
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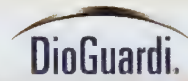
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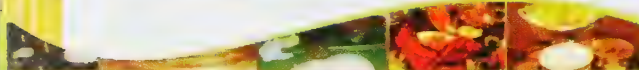
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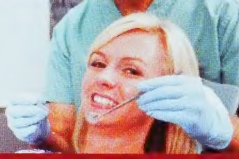
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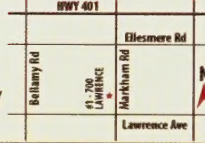


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